

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1378700-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 111

Page 19 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 24 ~ b3; b6; b7C;  
Page 25 ~ b3; b6; b7C;  
Page 40 ~ b3; b6; b7C;  
Page 41 ~ b3; b6; b7C;  
Page 89 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 90 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 92 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 93 ~ Duplicate;  
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# MEMORANDUM

Date: 6/28/90

TO: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR- ) (P)

FROM: SA

b6  
b7C

TITLE: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H.H. BROOKINS-Bishop  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH;  
ITSP; Wire Fraud;  
OO: LR

Information developed that indicates H.H. Brookins responsible for the transfer of stolen funds from Arkansas to California during 1987-88, totaling in excess of \$60,000.

Recommend a new 87D case be opened and assigned to writer.

*done 6/29/90  
87D-New  
hr*

AUTOMATED INDICES SEARCHED  
ON 6/28/90 BY JE

87D-LR-32575-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 28 1990	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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RWB/  
(2)

(File No.)

[illegible]

87D-LR-32575-1A

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 16 1990

FBI - LITTLE ROCK

Field File No.

87D-LR- 32575(A1)

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

OO and File No.

LR

Date Received

11-6-90

From

USDC Clark

(Name of Contributor)

Little Rock, Ark.

(Address of Contributor)

By

SA

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ NoGrand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

H.H. Brooks,

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview ofCopy of Complaint & Agents note re  
USDC Clark file review.b6  
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT  
LR# 87D-LR-32575-1A1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SEP 20 1990

EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

CARL R. BRENTS, CLERK  
By: [Signature]  
PLAINTIFF DEP. CLERK

G. EDWARD WEST

vs.

Case No. LR-C-90 - 670

H.H. BROOKINS

DEFENDANT

COMPLAINT

For his cause of action Plaintiff alleges and states:

1. This is a suit for (a) an accounting; (b) the return to Shorter College of all money held in trust for its use and benefit that has been wrongfully diverted; (c) the imposition of a constructive trust on all money diverted and property acquired through the use of such diverted funds; and (d) attorney's fees and costs.

2. Plaintiff is a resident and citizen of the Fort Smith District of Sebastian County, Arkansas who is and was at all material times a member of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College. Shorter College is a junior college organized as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Arkansas with its principal place of business located in Pulaski County, Arkansas. Plaintiff is a former student of Shorter College.

3. Defendant is a resident and citizen of the State of Virginia who was from 1984 until 1988 an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College.

4. There is complete diversity of citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeds \$50,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs.



5. Some of the acts giving rise to Plaintiff's cause of action occurred in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

6. From as early as March 1986, and perhaps earlier, to as recently as April 1988, and perhaps later, Defendant maintained a money market plus checking account at First Commercial Bank in Little Rock, Arkansas in the name of "H.H. Brookins--Shorter College Account", account number 0-69179-8. In a special report to the President on Shorter College fiscal affairs dated August 19, 1988 submitted by [REDACTED] the account is listed as an "unrestricted" account. There is no itemization of deposits or withdrawals for the account contained in the report. Copies of the monthly statement for the period from March 1986 to December 1987 are attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof as if set out herein word for word.

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b7C

7. Shorter College receives funds from state and federal government grants, private gifts and grants, donations, and other sources.

8. This money was collected, received, and held by Defendant in trust for the use and benefit of Shorter College. Defendant owed a fiduciary duty to Shorter College.

9. From March 19, 1986 through May 5, 1988, Defendant wire transferred or wrote checks on the account to himself, cash, or deposit as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/19/86	Cash	\$ 2,500.00
4/14/86	Wire transfer 360930	5,000.00
5/12/86	Cash	500.00
5/22/86	Deposit Only	4,000.00
6/19/86	Cash	1,000.00
11/12/86	Deposit to 002-3600930	15,000.00
11/21/86	Deposit to H.H. Brookins Acct.	20,000.00
12/12/86	Bishop H.Hartford Brookins	3,000.00
12/ /86	Cashiers Deposit Only	2,000.00
3/16/87	Cash	1,500.00
3/16/87	Cash--cashier's check	12,504.00
3/18/87	Cash	2,500.00
3/31/87	Deposit	5,000.00
4/2/87	Deposit to Account 360930	6,000.00
4/21/87	Deposit	3,000.00
6/1/87	Cash	500.00
6/22/87	Cash	1,000.00
7/17/87	Cash	1,500.00
9/2/87	Deposit	4,500.00
10/5/87	Cash	7,800.00
11/25/87	H.H. Brookins Acct. 360930	25,000.00
12/18/87	Cash	550.00
4/13/88	Episcopal Acct. H.H. Brookins	10,000.00
5/5/88	1st Commercial Bank	3,500.00
	Total:	\$ 137,850.00

One of the accounts to which some of these checks were deposited is in the Wilshire State Bank in Los Angeles, California in Defendant's name. Copies of the checks are attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and made a part hereof as if set out herein word for word.

10. From July 9, 1987 through July 25, 1988, Defendant wrote checks on the account to American Express as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/9/87	American Express	\$ 45.00
7/27/87	American Express	1,755.47
1/11/88	American Express	874.68
2/2/88	American Express	730.37
3/20/88	American Express	1,711.54
4/28/88	American Express	3,728.54
5/26/88	American Express	6,894.96
7/25/88	American Express	5,016.29
		<u>\$ 22,443.85</u>

Copies of the checks are attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and made a part hereof as if set out herein word for word.

11. From March 21, 1986 through July 25, 1988, Defendant wrote checks to  as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/21/86	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 170px; height: 470px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	\$ 7,412.89
3/9/87		500.00
12/9/87		285.00
12/17/87		2,872.50
2/5/88		500.00
3/14/88		200.00
3/21/88		400.00
3/23/88		1,020.00
3/24/88		250.00
3/31/88		850.00
4/8/88		400.00
4/12/88		300.00
4/22/88		100.00
5/4/88		1,000.00
5/5/88		200.00
5/10/88		200.00
5/11/88		400.00
5/12/88		250.00
5/17/88		350.00
5/16/88		200.00
5/31/88		300.00
6/3/88		50.00
6/6/88		150.00
6/9/88		75.00
6/15/88		400.00
6/23/88		400.00
6/28/88		700.00
7/1/88		625.00
7/14/88		650.00
7/25/88		1,500.00
7/29/88		500.00
Total:		\$ 23,040.39

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Copies of the checks are attached hereto as Exhibit "D" and made a part hereof as if set out herein word for word.

12. Defendant has never accounted to Shorter College or anyone else for the funds that went through the account.

13. On May 12, 1986 Defendant signed a check in the amount of \$2,500.00 payable to the "Shorter College Operating Account."

14. On September 24, 1986 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$50,000.00 payable to "First Commercial Bank (cashiers check #113872)."

15. On November 6, 1986 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$11,000.00 payable to "Founders Savings and Loan."

16. On February 23, 1987 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$6,500.00 payable to "Founders Savings." The check was endorsed by Defendant.

17. On May 5, 1988 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$3,500.00 payable to "First Commercial Bank." The check was endorsed by Defendant.

18. On June 15, 1988 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$20.00 payable to the "Little Rock Police Dept." There is a notation on the front of the check "A29531" that appears to be a Summons number.

19. Defendant got married in March 1986. On March 21, 1986 Defendant signed a check on the account in the amount of \$7,412.89 payable to  The check shows on its face that it was for "wedding".

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20. Shorter College does not have a record of receipts of monies and expenditures for the account in question.

21. Shorter College has not kept correct and complete books and records of the account.

22. Shorter College refuses to join in this suit.

23. Plaintiff has standing to sue.

24. Copies of the checks referred to in Paragraphs 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 are attached hereto as Exhibit "E" and made a part hereof as if set out herein word for word.

25. Plaintiff reserves the right to file an Amended Complaint after further investigation and discovery.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that Defendant be required to account for all funds deposited in the money market plus checking account at First Commercial Bank of Little Rock in the name of "H.H. Brookins--Shorter College Account", account number 0-69179-8; that any money wrongfully diverted from the account be returned to Shorter College; that a constructive trust be imposed on any funds wrongfully diverted and any property acquired with such funds; that he have his attorney's fees and costs; and that he have all other relief to which he may show himself entitled whether specifically prayed for herein or not.

MARTIN, VATER, KARR & HUTCHINSON  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: \_\_\_\_\_

First National Bank Building  
602 Garrison Avenue, Suite 505  
Fort Smith, AR 72901-2534

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11/6

LRC 90-670

① Complaint filed 9/20/90 - 6 pages

② Bank statements  
 " H.H. Brookings  
 Shooter College Aut  
 604 N Locust  
 Nor Bank 72114

Aut # ~~6~~-691798 (1st Comm Bank)  
 3/31/83 - 12/31/87 L.R. Bank.

③	C/Check Date	AMT	CK#	Payee	By
	3/19/86	2,500	-	Cash	HB
	5/12/86	500	104	Cash	HB
	5/22/86	4,000	110	Deposit Only	HB
	<del>6/15/86</del>			TO Amt 2,360,930 WISHING STATE BANK LA CALIF.	
	6/19/86	1,000	111	Cash	HB
	11/2/86	15,000	133	Dep'to 2 360930	"
	11/21/86	20,000	142	Dep'to 0.5406540(?)	"
	12/2/86	3,000	137	Bishop & Hartsand Bankers	"
	12-86	2,000	141	Cash Dep Only 1-360930	"
	3/1/87	1,500	136	CASH	"
	3/14/87	12,500	135	Cash - Cashier Check	"
	3/18/87	2,500	143	Cash	"
	3/31/87	5,000	129	Deposit 1-360-390	"
	4/7/87	6,000	146	Dep'to 360-930	"
	4/21/87	3,000	147	Deposit	"

(2)

DATE	AMT	#	paper	
6/1/87	500 <sup>00</sup>	156	Cash	HAB
6/22/87	1000 <sup>00</sup>	158	"	"
7/17/87	1,500 <sup>00</sup>	160	"	"
9/2/87	4500 <sup>00</sup>	167	Reg to Act 001-061-716	"
10/5/87	7800 <sup>00</sup>	171	Cash	"
11/25/87	25000 <sup>00</sup>	149	HAB out 360-930	"
12/18/87	550 <sup>00</sup>	183	Cash	"
4/13/88	10,000 <sup>00</sup>	211	?	"
5/5/88	3,500 <sup>00</sup>	209	1 <sup>st</sup> Comm BANK (cashier ck)	"

DATE	AMT	#	Am Exp
7/9/87	45 <sup>00</sup>	153	" "
7/27/87	1,755 <sup>42</sup>	161	" "
1-11-88	874 <sup>68</sup>	184	" "
2-2-88	730 <sup>37</sup>	186	" "
3-20-88	1711 <sup>54</sup>	193	" "
4-28-88	3728 <sup>54</sup>	217	" "
5-26-88	6894 <sup>96</sup>	214	" "
7-25-88	5016 <sup>22</sup>	264	" "

(2)

cc of ck # 103

117

114

138 End HLB

209 for CC end. HLB

246

ATTN: of Lucia report HLB 9/27/90

10/23/90 Motion to Dismiss filed by



b6  
b7C

ask for HLB



Field File No.

87A-LR-32575 (1A2)

Serial # of Originating Document

OO and File No.

LR

Date Received

5-30-91

From

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By

SA

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

H. H. Brookins  
ET AL

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

List of Shorter College Board Members

b6  
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT  
LR# 87D-LR-32575-1A2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SHORTT COLLEGE

BISHOP H. HARTFORD, BROOKINS, CHAIRMAN  
604 LOCUST STREET  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114

b6  
b7c

REVEREND G.E. WEST, 1904 NORTH 4TH TERRACE, FORT SMITH, AR 72903

Field File No. 87D LR-32575-1A3

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

OO and File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 1/29/92

From  187  
Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No      Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules  
of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

FD-192 (evidence copy) ref 1B1

b6  
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT

LR# 87D-LR-32575-1A3

Date 12-24-91

- ☒ General Evidence    ☐ Drug Evidence    ☐ Valuable Evidence  
☐ Special Handling Requirement (i.e., FBI Lab Instructions Re Body Fluid Stains, Whole Blood, etc.)

Title and Character of Case

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS,  
ET AL

FILE NO. 87D-LR-32575

OO: Little Rock

Date Acquired

12-24-91

Acquired From:

[Redacted]

b3  
b6  
b7C  
b7E

To Be Returned

☒ Yes    ☐ No

See Serial

Acquiring Agent

[Redacted]

Case Agent

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

☒ Yes    ☐ No    Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes    ☒ No    Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

SEE TWO PAGE ATTACHMENT



FOR DRUG AND/OR VALUABLE EVIDENCE ONLY - NAMES OF TWO AGENTS  
INITIALLY VERIFYING AND SEALING:

\_\_\_\_\_

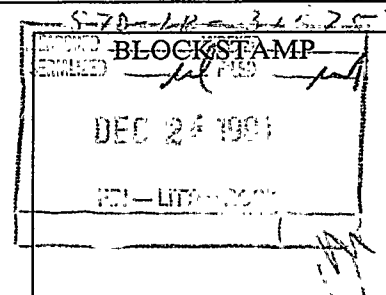
For Use By ECT:

Location of Property: ECRI

E0055398

Control Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Package Copy)



# CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Item	Ac	Date	Time	Released Custody	Date	Time
Signature	[Redacted]	12/24/91	10 <sup>30</sup> <sub>A</sub>	Signature	[Redacted]	1/29/92 8 <sup>15</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Reason	Evidence			Reason	released to	
Signature	[Redacted]	1/29/92	8 <sup>15</sup> <sub>A</sub>	Signature	[Redacted]	1/29/92 10 <sup>30</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Reason	for shipping			Reason	marked to SA [Redacted] 653809132, 653809133 653809134	
Signature				Signature		
Reason				Reason		
Signature				Signature		
Reason				Reason		
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Reason				Reason		
Signature				Signature		
Reason				Reason		

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b7C  
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b7C  
b7E

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Universal File Case Number 87D-LR-32575-1A4

Field Office Acquiring Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 2/3/92

From  1624  
(Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

FD-192a re ref IC1 + IC2

b6  
b7C



KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT  
LR# 87D-LL-32575-1A4

Date

6-3-91

Title and Character of Case

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS  
ET AL  
ITSP: FBW  
OO: LR

FILE NO.

87D-LR-32575

OO:

LR

Date Acquired

5-30-91

Acquired From:

To Be Returned

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

Copies of Partial BANK RECORDS for acct #  
069179-8, First Comm. BK. LR for  
period 4/86 - 12/88  
① 11.

65-479

87D-LR-32575-161

For Administrative Use:

Location of Property: SA

Control Number:

(Package Copy)

BLOCKSTAMP			
SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1991		FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

b6  
b7C

[illegible]

Inventory of Bulky Nonevidentiary Property  
FD-192a (1-5-89)

Date

8/12/91

Title and Character of Case

FILE NO. 87D-LR- 32575

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka:  
AFERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH  
ITSP;FBW  
00: LR

OO: LR

Date Acquired

Acquired From:

b3

To Be Returned

☐ Yes ☒ No

See Serial

Acquiring Agent

Case Agent

b6

b7C

☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules  
of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

b3



E0065609

87D-LR-32575-1C2

For Administrative Use:

Location of Property: BULKY

ECR1

Control Number: E0065609

(Package Copy)

BLOCKSTAMP	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 13 1991	
FBI - LR	



Universal File Case Number 87D-LR-32575-1A<sup>5</sup>

Field Office Acquiring Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # of Originating Document \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 2/11/92

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

PS form # 3811  
Rm # 653809134

b6  
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT  
LR# 87D-LR-32575-1A5

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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3. Article Addressed to:

4. Article Number

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered | <input type="checkbox"/> Insured                           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail          | <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt<br>for Merchandise |

Always obtain signature of addressee  
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8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if  
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Date 12-24-91

- ☒ General Evidence    ☐ Drug Evidence    ☐ Valuable Evidence  
☐ Special Handling Requirement (i.e., FBI Lab Instructions Re Body Fluid Stains, Whole Blood, etc.)

Title and Character of Case

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS,  
ET AL

FILE NO. 87D-LR-32575

OO: Little Rock

b3

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b7E

Date Acquired

Acquired From:

To Be Returned  
☒ Yes    ☐ No

See Serial

Acquiring Agent

Case Agent

b6

b7C

☒ Yes    ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes    ☒ No    Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

SEE TWO PAGE ATTACHMENT

1/29/92 Evidence returned to contributors per 1 A 3 /mld

FOR DRUG AND/OR VALUABLE EVIDENCE ONLY - NAMES OF TWO AGENTS INITIALLY VERIFYING AND SEALING:

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Location of Property: ECRI

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87D-LR-32575-161

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# CHAIN OF CUSTODY

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REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

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Date 6-3-91

Title and Character of Case

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS  
ET AL  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LR

FILE NO. 87D-LR-32575  
OO: LR

Date Acquired

5-30-91

Acquired From:

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

To Be Returned

☐ Yes ☐ No

See Serial

A

[Redacted]

Case Agent

[Redacted]

☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

Copies of Partial BANK RECORDS for acct #  
069179-8, First Comm. BR. LR for  
period 4/86 - 12/88

2/4/92 Encl. destroyed per 1A4/ml

87D-LR-32575-181

For Administrative Use:

Location of Property: SA [Redacted]

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JUN 3 1991			
FBI - LITTLE ROCK			

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[illegible]

Date

8/12/91

Title and Character of Case

HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka:  
AFERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH  
ITSP;FBW  
00: LR

FILE NO. 87D-LR- 32575

OO: LR

Date Acquired

Acquired From:

b3

To Be Returned

☐ Yes ☒ No

See Serial

Acquiring Agent

Case Agent

b6

b7C

☒ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules  
of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No Property To Be Forfeited To The U.S. Government

Description of Property (Be Specific)

b3

2/4/92 Evidence destroyed on 1/4/91

87D-LR-32575-1C2

For Administrative Use:

Location of Property: BULKY

ECR1

Control Number: E0065609

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# 'Hollywood Bishop' faces a long fight

By Gregg Jones  
Gazette Staff

During his 21 years in Los Angeles, Henry Hartford Brookins came to be known as "the Hollywood bishop," prelate to the rich and powerful.

He rose from pastor of that city's prestigious First African Methodist Episcopal Church to bishop of the AME district encompassing the state of California. He lived in style, cultivating a coterie of influential friends. He drove a Mercedes-Benz.

Brookins, the son of a Mississippi sharecropper, still owns a house in the plush southern California enclave of Bel Air, according to recent news accounts. Prior to his arrival in Little Rock in 1984, he was named one of the 10 best-dressed men in America by *Jet* magazine.

Friends and associates have called Bishop H.H. Brookins a man of charisma and intelligence, a

flamboyant preacher, a passionate orator, a figure of grace and elan who moves with ease in monied circles.

A veteran civil rights campaigner, he marched alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. A kingmaker in the black community, he has effectively wielded power during his tenure in the church hierarchy.

Now, at 65, Brookins is at the center of what his accusers and other church members are calling a scandal in the three-million-member AME church.

A lawsuit filed Tuesday in Pulaski County Chancery Court accused Brookins of diverting for personal use about \$380,000 from the AME's 12th district — one of the church's poorest districts, made up of Arkansas and Oklahoma — and from Shorter College, the financially troubled, AME-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

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Character:

or

Classification: 87D-LR-32575

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LR

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(INITIALS)

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FBI - LITTLE ROCK	



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File F

**1986:** Brookins and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, his best man, at Brookins' wedding in Little Rock.

owned junior college in North Little Rock.

The alleged improprieties occurred during Brookins' tenure as presiding bishop of the 12th district, based in Little Rock, from 1984 until 1988. Since July 1988, Brookins has served as prelate of the AME's 2nd district, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

In a telephone interview Thursday with the *Arkansas Gazette*, Brookins dismissed charges of financial impropriety as "wild, irresponsible allegations" and the malicious work of "one disgruntled former member of the board of trustees" of Shorter College.

"It's a personal vendetta thing," Brookins said, adding that he was prepared to fight the charges in court.

Brookins said the First Commercial Bank account he allegedly used to divert church and Shorter College funds for his use was a personal account. "No school funds were in it, not a dime," Brookins said.

Nonetheless, the allegations against Brookins appear to have shaken the faith of some of the 12th district church members.

"When he came here, I did hear that Brookins was a businessman, he has properties, that sort of thing," recalled a lifelong member of the AME church who is a senior official at Shorter College. "He focused a lot on economic development. Was he interested in his own economic development? That's a

question that needs to be answered."

Said another longtime church member in Little Rock, who insisted on anonymity, "I just wish it were all over. But I'm not sure whether we'll ever know exactly what went on."

Born the son of a Yazoo, Miss., sharecropper on June 8, 1925, Brookins first gained prominence within the AME church for his involvement in civil rights causes in Wichita, Kan., in the wake of the Supreme Court's landmark school desegregation decision in 1954, according to an official church biography.

## Became pastor

Brookins' star began a steady climb with an appointment in 1959 as pastor of the First AME Church of Los Angeles. He proved adept at fund-raising, supervising the construction of a new multimillion dollar sanctuary for the First AME Church. Elected a bishop in 1972, Brookins was assigned to Africa for several years. He later served a term as bishop for the church's 5th Episcopal district, which includes the state of California.

During his years in Los Angeles, first as a pastor and later as a bishop, Brookins established a reputation as a political kingmaker. One of his church members in Los Angeles was Tom Bradley, a former policeman who became the city's first black chief of police. Under Brookins' tutelage, Bradley was elected to the City Council and later became the city's first black mayor. Brookins was a campaign co-chairman, according to a church biography and press accounts.

Brookins' work in the civil rights movement and his activism on behalf of black businessmen enabled him to forge close relationships with a impressive array of prominent figures. He acted as a go-between in helping black-owned businesses negotiate contracts with the city of Los Angeles, helped pioneer church-directed economic development projects in black communities and played a key role in the AME church's foray into building federally subsidized, low-income housing in a number of other cities across the country.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported in February that Brookins obtained \$336,000 in federal poverty loans to renovate an office complex he secretly owned. Los Angeles officials, who awarded the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to Brookins between 1982 and 1985, thought the renovation funds were going to a church corporation, according to articles in the *Times* and the *Washington Post*. That corporation did not legally exist, the *Times* reported.

By the mid-1980s, Brookins was a part of the power structure of black America, aided by friendships with Jesse Jackson and other black leaders. An eligible bachelor with a taste for expensive clothes, he was frequently in the pages of *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines, an acquaintance of Brookins' recalled.

Accustomed to the glitz of southern California, Brookins was less than thrilled with his assignment to Little Rock and one of the

poorest districts of the AME — an assignment, Brookins would later tell a reporter, that was the work of his enemies within the church.

After Brookins arrived in 1984, he was feted regularly at such affairs as the lavish "banquet of the century" at the Robinson Center in July 1985, attended by Jesse Jackson and Gov. and Mrs. Bill Clinton.

One of the most pressing problems Brookins inherited as bishop of the 12th district was the chronic financial woes of Shorter College, the North Little Rock community college owned and operated by the AME church. Annual enrollment hovers slightly above 100 students. The 12th district bishop is responsible for raising enough money to keep Shorter open.

Raising money was a talent Brookins had crafted as a pastor and bishop. He was not bashful about calling out names of those attending his services and asking them to come forward and place a check in his hand, one AME member who attended several of Brookins' appearances at church services and fund-raisers remembered.

Because of his stature as a black leader, coupled with the power bestowed on AME bishops, Brookins was free to conduct church business — and handle the accumulating funds — as he saw fit, according to the Rev. R.J. Hampton, the Rev. George E. West of Fort Smith and other church sources.

West, a Shorter board member, filed the suit against Brookins. He and Hampton, a presiding elder of the Hot Springs-Gurdon district of the church, later asked a federal judge to prohibit Brookins' successor, Bishop H.A. Belin Jr., from collecting and distributing money in the name of the church until safeguards were intact.

## Opened account

On March 19, 1986, three days before he was to be married to a 36-year-old Los Angeles publicist, Brookins walked into the main office of the First Commercial Bank at Broadway and Capitol

Avenue and opened a combination money market and checking account with an initial \$30,000 deposit.

Listing himself as the sole signatory for account No. 0-69179-8, Brookins designated the account as "H.H. Brookins — Shorter College Account," bank documents obtained by the *Gazette* show.

The chancery court lawsuit alleged Brookins deposited money in the account that had been collected "for the use and benefit of Shorter

College." Brookins insisted last week that the \$380,000 deposited over roughly a two-year period were his personal funds, and that he had loaned the college up to \$50,000 of his own money.

Asked the source of the large sums of money he deposited in the account, Brookins paused before replying, "I'm not going to get into that." Moments later, he added, "I had some consulting fees, not in Arkansas."

Over a 28-month period, from March 19, 1986 until July 25, 1988, Brookins wrote checks on the account to himself, to his personal secretary, to American Express, and to a number of other individuals and organizations — many with no obvious connection to the AME church or Shorter College.

It wasn't until the late summer of 1988, nearly two months after Brookins had left Little Rock, that the board of trustees of Shorter College learned of the First Commercial account, said Dr. W.D. Goldsby, president of Shorter College at the time. On Aug. 19, 1988, Goldsby presented the school's trustees and Belin with a report on Shorter College fiscal affairs.

Belin refused to investigate and never asked Brookins to account for the money, Hampton and Goldsby said. Repeated attempts to contact Belin and his secretary, Anita Elliott, were unsuccessful.

"We just want some answers and some accountability," Hampton said. "If you're innocent, just come and lay some facts on the table."

"We're not trying to embarrass the church or anybody," he said.

## A Brookins chronology

■ 1984: Brookins arrives in Little Rock from Los Angeles.

■ July 6, 1985: Jesse Jackson comes to Little Rock to speak at the "Banquet of the Century: A Salute to Bishop H. H. Brookins" at Robinson Center. Addressing a crowd of 650, including Gov. Bill Clinton and other state officials, Jackson credits Brookins with launching his 1984 presidential campaign.

■ March 19, 1986: Brookins opens a money market-checking account at First Commercial Bank with a \$30,000 deposit.

■ March 22, 1986: With Jesse Jackson as best man, Brookins marries Los Angeles publicist Bonita Coleman in a lavish ceremony in Little Rock, followed by a champagne reception attended by 1,000 people.

■ June 4, 1987: Brookins announces a "total reorganization plan is in progress" at financially strapped Shorter College, the AME-operated church in North Little Rock.

■ July 1987: Brookins' wife of 16 months files for divorce in a Los Angeles court, citing irreconcilable differences.

■ July 1988: Brookins is appointed prelate of the AME church's 2nd Episcopal district, based in Washington, D.C. Bishop Henry Belin is appointed to succeed Brookins in Little Rock.

■ Aug. 19, 1988: The Shorter College board of trustees learns of the First Commercial Bank account listed as "H. H. Brookins-Shorter College Account."

■ January 1989: Financial problems force layoffs at Shorter College.

■ June 5, 1990: The Rev. George E. West of Fort Smith files a lawsuit in Pulaski County chancery court accusing Brookins of diverting about \$380,000 from the AME church Shorter College for personal use.

## The charges

A chancery court lawsuit includes these charges about Bishop H. H. Brookins' use of money from a bank account that the plaintiffs say belongs to the AME church:

- Some checks Brookins wrote to himself were subsequently deposited in Brookins' personal account at the Wilshire State Bank in Los Angeles.

- The total amount of the checks Brookins wrote to himself was \$137,850.

- From July 9, 1987, to July 25, 1988, Brookins wrote eight checks to American Express, totaling \$22,443.85.

- Brookins wrote 31 checks to his secretary, Anita Elliott, totaling \$23,040.39. Brookins' accusers allege Elliott was required to cash the checks for Brookins' use.

- The first check written to Elliott on the First Commercial Bank account was dated March 21, 1986, the eve of Brookins' wedding to Bonita Coleman. The check was for \$7,412.89 and bore the handwritten notation "wedding" in the memo space.

- A \$2,000 check written by Brookins on the First Commercial account and dated Oct. 23, 1987, was endorsed to Brookins' eventual successor as 12th District bishop, Henry Belin. (Belin was named in a separate lawsuit, alleging misuse of funds collected on behalf of AME-operated Shorter College.)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1  
Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 6/29/90

Edition: AM

Title:

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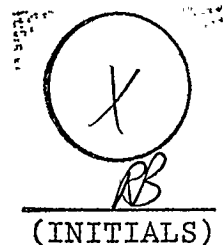
or

Classification: 87D-LR-32575

Submitting Office:

LR

Indexing:


  
(INITIALS)

# Tape shows Barry smoking crack pipe

Knight News Service and Gazette Staff

WASHINGTON — After months of anticipation, federal prosecutors showed their grainy videotape of Mayor Marion Barry allegedly smoking crack cocaine in a downtown hotel room.

While being recorded by hidden cameras as part of a sting operation, Barry raised a pipe to his mouth, lit it and inhaled. Then he did it again.

Rasheeda Moore, his former girlfriend, can be seen on the tape watching Barry smoke the pipe.

As Barry put on his suit coat and prepared to leave, a troop of police rushed

into the room through a side door yelling "Police!" and "FBI! FBI! You're under arrest."

"All right, no problem," Barry says, immediately indicating he understood the gravity of the moment.

Moore has testified that she and Barry used drugs about 100 times in 22 locations from 1986 to 1989, including in the Washington-area home of Arkansas's former African Methodist Episcopal leader, Bishop H.H. Brookins.

Brookins, who Moore said was in another part of the house at the time, said in a statement that he was "surprised and

shocked" by Moore's testimony and that he had never met Moore.

The videotaped hotel incident is likely to be a crucial moment in the trial.

As the 80-minute videotape began rolling in the courtroom, it was released publicly and excerpts were shown on local television stations. Its quality is poor. The conversation is difficult to understand and the images are blurry and often obstructed.

While jurors watched intently, Barry studied the written transcript of the vid-

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FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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Associated Press

**FBI TAPE:** A frame from a black-and-white videotape shows Washington Mayor Marion Barry allegedly lighting a pipe containing crack cocaine as

Rasheeda Moore stands behind. The tape was made in a Washington hotel room shortly before police entered the room and arrested Barry.



eotape.

Most of the tape is taken up by a long, chatty discussion between the mayor and Moore, who cooperated with the government by luring him to the hotel room the evening of Jan. 18. They discussed everything from her shoes and his weight to past sexual affairs and whether they should make love, which they didn't.

As part of the sting, Moore was flown from her home in California to Washington where she was lodged in Room 727 of the Vista Hotel. An undercover agent posed as a friend of Moore who was staying with her at the hotel and was able to get drugs.

Shortly after Barry arrived at the hotel, the undercover agent left, supposedly to buy drugs. In the interim, Barry and Moore drank cognac. Barry placed two telephone calls, and the two talked, twice hugging on the bed.

After nearly an hour, the undercover agent returned with crack cocaine. Barry gave Moore money to buy the drugs. Barry then indicated he preferred powder cocaine. Moore then sent the undercover agent out for cocaine, but, when Barry changed his mind, the crack was brought back.

Moore produced a crack pipe and a lighter. With the undercover agent out of the room, Barry and Moore began discussing who should smoke first. Moore said that smoking crack made her "hyper" and Barry said, "If you don't do it, I'm not going to do it."

Barry elicited a laugh from Moore when he asked her how to use the pipe. "That's what we used to do all the time," she said.

After more discussion about who would smoke first, Barry went over to the dresser, picked up the crack pipe, lit it and smoked it.

After he was arrested, Barry began cursing Moore repeatedly, even after she was taken from the room.

Barry has pleaded not guilty to all 14 counts against him. His attorney, R. Kenneth Mundy, has said he will try to show that Barry was illegally entrapped into smoking the crack.

Moore, a former model, testified Wednesday in Barry's drug and perjury trial that she and the mayor used drugs more than 100 times from 1986 until 1989. During

most of that time they were romantically involved, said Moore.

On Tuesday Moore said she and Barry had smoked the drug at Brookins house in McLean, Va., although Brookins was elsewhere in the house at the time.

Brookins, in a statement Wednesday, said: "To the best of my knowledge, I have neither met Ms. Moore nor spoken with her."

Brookins, who has been a close adviser to Barry since Brookins was transferred to the Washington area from Arkansas in 1988, said, "I am surprised to hear that she says she has been to my home. Furthermore, if the alleged activity did occur, it would be a violation of the sanctity of my home, of my trust and of my friendship."

Moore gave a vivid description of the incident in a bathroom of Brookins' house.

It was an "extremely frightening experience," she said.

*"I was anxious to smoke because I hadn't done any for a couple of days or so."*

—Rasheeda Moore, testifying at Barry's trial

She said Barry smoked the drug first, put the pipe down and then she took it.

"I was anxious to smoke because I hadn't done any for a couple of days or so," she said. "So, I took the pipe next ... took a big hit, and when I took the hit, I got extremely high, started shaking. I started to lose it. I could feel my eyes starting to dilate and move back, and I could see him moving very slowly on the side."

She said she recovered in a few

minutes and came out of the bathroom.

"And when I finally came through ... I walked out of the bathroom and found him," she said. "He was in the closet, putting the pipe in a shoe tree and putting the cocaine in another area ..."

"We both sat down, and I said I am not doing it anymore, this is it because I could have died at that time."

But, she said, it wasn't the last time she did it.

If her testimony is true, Moore's account is only the latest controversy to surround Brookins.

He was sued earlier this month by the Rev. G. Edward Smith of Fort Smith in Arkansas for allegedly diverting money from a special fund belonging to Shorter College in North Little Rock for his personal use.

The suit alleges he withdrew \$137,850 for himself, paid \$22,443 to American Express and wrote \$23,000 in checks to his secretary over the course of two years ending in December of 1987. He was bishop of the AME district of Arkansas and Oklahoma for four years until coming to Washington in 1988.

In all, the suit asked that he account for \$380,000 in the college's special funds.

Brookins has brushed off the allegations as "wild" and "irresponsible," and denied misusing the funds.

When he came to Washington, where he now oversees 361 churches in Washington, Virginia and Maryland, he became a close adviser to Barry.

—Jeffrey Stinson of the Gazette's Washington Bureau contributed to this report.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 7/12/90  
Edition: AM

Title:

Character: 87D-LR-32575  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: LR

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(INITIALS)

## 2 church officials added to lawsuit

### Attorney amends his original complaint

By Gregg Jones  
Gazette Staff

Attorneys for a member of the Shorter College board of trustees amended his lawsuit against the former head of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Arkansas and Oklahoma to include two other church officials as defendants.

Named are the Rev. W. H. Hunter of Little Rock, vice chairman of the Shorter College board of trustees, and the Rev. J. J. Brown of Garland County, presiding elder of the Little Rock district of the AME church.

They are accused, along with Bishop H. H. Brookins, who now lives in McLean, Va., with diverting and misusing church and Shorter College funds. The college

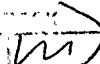
is in North Little Rock.

Hunter also is presiding elder of the Pine Bluff-South District of the AME church's 12th Episcopal District. The 12th District encompasses the two states. Brown formerly was secretary of the Shorter board.

The Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith filed the suit in Pulaski County Chancery Court. The amended complaint alleged that Brookins, Brown and Hunter misused funds diverted from a \$562,000 loan obtained by Shorter College from Twin City Bank on Oct. 14, 1987. The suit asks that the defendants account for the loan proceeds and return "monies wrongfully diverted" to Shorter College.

87D-LR-32575-3X1

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	



# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 7/13/90

From : SA [REDACTED]

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - Bishop;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (AME)  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

(INITIALS)

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On June 27, 1990, a review was conducted of Case Number 90-3455, Pulaski County Chancery Court, Little Rock, Arkansas, entitled "Reverend G. EDWARD WEST versus BISHOP H. H. BROOKINS." A review of that file revealed the following:

The action was filed on June 5, 1990, by Attorney [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Fort Smith, Arkansas, telephone [REDACTED] on behalf of the AME CHURCH. The filings consisted of a (1) Complaint, (2) Motion - entitled "First Request for Production of Documents Propounded to Defendant for certain records, including bank statements and tax returns and (3) Motion - First Set of Interrogatories Propounded to Defendant containing a listing of 200 questions relative to the accounting for certain AME funds.

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Responses are to be filed within 45 days from date of service.

The complaint further contains reference to seven (7) transactions totaling \$63,500, wherein funds were transferred from Arkansas to California bank accounts. Accounts listed are as follows:

Account Number 0-69179-8  
FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Account Number 1-061-716  
WILSHIRE STATE BANK  
Los Angeles, California

Account Number 360-930  
WILSHIRE STATE BANK  
Los Angeles, California

RWB/evk  
(2) [REDACTED]

87D-LR-32575-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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In addition, approximately \$22,000 was used to pay American Express charges of BROOKINS, along with substantial checks to [REDACTED]

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On June 28, 1990, contact was established with [REDACTED] supra, who corroborated the unauthorized transfer of funds from Arkansas to California. [REDACTED] stated he expected the responses within 30 days and would keep the Bureau apprised of all developments.

[REDACTED] was advised the Bureau would take no action until all responses had been received and reviewed relative to the civil proceeding.

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will maintain contact with Attorney [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Will review responses to requested Interrogatories and, thereafter, conduct appropriate investigation.

The following investigation was conducted on August 28, 1990, by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] at Little Rock, Arkansas:

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A review of Chancery Court File Number [REDACTED] Pulaski County Court, Little Rock, Arkansas, revealed the following filings in case entitled "Reverend G. EDWARD WEST versus Bishop H. H. BROOKINS [REDACTED]":

On July 11, 1990, a Notice of Filing reflected service on H. H. BROOKINS, 6206 Stoneham Lane, McLean, Virginia, on June 20, 1990.

On the same date, a First Amended Complaint was filed by [REDACTED] with Attachments (Exhibit A - SHORTER COLLEGE Closing Statement) (Exhibit B - Disbursement Sheet), reflecting alleged discrepancies in the disbursement of SHORTER COLLEGE funds. The complaint requests accountability for all funds in issue. (X)  
RB

On July 12, 1990, additional Interrogatories were filed requesting twenty-four (24) additional items.

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On July 24, 1990, a Motion to Dismiss, along with a memorandum Brief in Support of Defendants Motion to Dismiss filed by Attorney [REDACTED] on behalf of defendant BROOKINS. Hearing was set for September 12, 1990, before Judge ROBIN MAYS.

On August 3, 1990, [REDACTED] supra, filed a Response to Defendants Motion to Dismiss.

On August 6, 1990, a Motion For Extension of Time to Respond to the Complaint filed by Attorney [REDACTED] on behalf of defendants [REDACTED]. An order was issued granting the extension until August 31, 1990.

Addresses for defendants are reflected as follows:

(COPY)

87D-LR-32575-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

[REDACTED] RB

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87D-LR-32575

2

H. H. BROOKINS  
6206 Stoneham Lane  
McLean, Virginia



b6  
b7C

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, ArkansasDate: 9/2/90  
Edition: AM

Title:

87D-LR-32575

Character:

or

Little Rock

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

# AME clergy seek suit dismissal

Three African Methodist Episcopal clergymen who are being sued in connection with the misappropriation of more than \$500,000 are seeking to have the complaint dismissed because the issues should be addressed first by the church.

AME Bishop H.H. Brookins and the Revs. J.J. Brown and W.H. Hunter contend in legal documents filed Friday in Pulaski County Chancery Court that the lawsuit should be thrown out because neither the AME Church nor Shorter College, whose money allegedly was misappropriated, are parties

to the suit filed by the Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith, a Shorter College trustee.

Brookins, Brown and Hunter state that the matter involves "ecclesiastical questions and disputations over religious doctrine and practice, and a decision... would cause this court to make determinations of an ecclesiastical nature." The allegations should be first handled internally by the church's Judicial Council, they say.

"Civil courts have no authority over religious disputations even involving property rights ...

The motion asks for punitive damages and court and attorneys fees from West on the grounds that the accusations are slanderous to Brookins, Brown and Hunter.

The suit against Brookins, the former bishop of the AME Church district covering Arkansas and Oklahoma; Hunter of Little Rock, vice chairman of the Shorter College board of trustees; and Brown of Garland County, presiding elder of the Little Rock district of the AME Church, contends they diverted money for their personal use from a \$562,000 loan obtained by the college.

X  
WJ  
(INITIALS)

87D-LR-32575-6

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WJ	

\* orig. to bureau 9/10/90 NRM

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 12B  
Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 9/22/90

Edition: AM

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Title:

Character:

or 87A-LR-32575

Classification:

Submitting Office: LR

# AME bishop sued over \$183,000

## Money was Shorter's

### Gazette Staff

Bishop H.H. Brookins of the African Methodist Episcopal Church should have to account for more than \$183,000 he spent from a Shorter College account between 1986 and 1988, a member of the Shorter board contended Thursday in a federal lawsuit.

The Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith sued Brookins, now of McLean, Va., seeking an accounting for 63 checks he says Brookins

wrote and a return of any money that was wrongfully diverted or property bought with such money.

The suit said Brookins wrote 24 checks totaling \$137,850 to himself, cash or deposit from an account named H.H. Brookins-Shorter College between March 19, 1986, and May 5, 1988. It also asked for an accounting for eight checks totaling \$22,443 Brookins wrote to American Express between July 9, 1987, and July 25, 1988, and 31 checks totaling \$23,040 he wrote to his secretary, Anita Elliott, between March 21,

1986, and July 25, 1988.

West also has sued Brookins in state court, contending that the bishop, when he headed the AME district including Arkansas, diverted college money to himself.

X  
M  
(INITIALS)

87A-LR-32575-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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in



# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P)

Date 10/3/90

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject : HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - Bishop;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

(INITIALS)  
X  
B

Re my memo, July 13, 1990.

On August 28, 1990, a review was conducted of Pulaski Chancery Court file number 90-3455 with results set forth on insert form.

On October 2, 1990, pursuant to local newspaper articles, contact was reestablished with Attorney [REDACTED] Fort Smith, Arkansas, at which time [REDACTED] advised the suit regarding captioned matter had been withdrawn from Pulaski County Chancery Court and refiled in United States District Court (USDC), Eastern District of Arkansas (EDA), Little Rock, Arkansas, under case number LRC 90-670. [REDACTED] advised the filing in Federal Court was basically identical to the previous filing except he had attached copies of pertinent checks and bank statements to that complaint.

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[REDACTED] advised his suit included a portion of a loan transaction from TWIN CITY BANK (TCB) on behalf of Shorter College, in October, 1987, in the amount of \$562,000. At approximately the same time, BROOKINS made a \$54,000 deposit into the account in question and immediately transferred \$30,000 to an account established in Los Angeles, California, by BROOKINS. The only available funds to transfer were proceeds from the \$54,000, and no legitimate reason exists for that transfer.

## LEADS:

### LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

#### AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will review filings in USDC, EDA.

Will maintain contact with AME attorney, [REDACTED]

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b7C

Will conduct appropriate investigation and report accordingly.

RWB/dgf  
(2)

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87D-LR-32575-8

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OCT 3 1990	
[REDACTED]	

WJ [REDACTED] B

87D-LR-32575  
RWB/sst

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] on November 6, 1990, at Little Rock, Arkansas:

b6  
b7C

A review of United States District Court (USDC) clerk file number LRC 90-670 entitled "G. EDWARD WEST vs. H. H. BROOKINS" revealed the following:

On September 20, 1990, a complaint was filed by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], as  
attorney for the plaintiff (G. EDWARD WEST) against H. H. BROOKINS.

(INITIALS)

Attached as exhibits to the complaint were the following:

Exhibit A - Copies of monthly bank statements for the period March, 1986 - December, 1987, for account number 0-69179-8, FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK, Little Rock, Arkansas, styled H. H. BROOKINS - SHORTER COLLEGE account.

Exhibit B - Copies of twenty-four (24) checks totaling \$137,850.00, signed by H. H. BROOKINS, for the benefit of BROOKINS.

Exhibit C - Copies of eight (8) checks totaling \$22,443.85, signed by H. H. BROOKINS, payable to AMERICAN EXPRESS.

Exhibit D - Copies of thirty-one (31) checks totaling \$23,040.39, signed by H. H. BROOKINS, payable to [REDACTED]

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87D-LR-32575-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 15 1990	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

(COPY)

## Exhibit E -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>
May 12, 1986	\$ 2,500.00	"SHORTER COLLEGE Operating Amount"
September 24, 1986	\$50,000.00	"FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK" to purchase cashier's check #113872
November 6, 1986	\$11,000.00	"FOUNDERS SAVINGS AND LOAN"
February 23, 1987	\$ 6,500.00	"FOUNDERS SAVINGS AND LOAN"
May 5, 1988	\$ 3,500.00	"FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK"
June 15, 1988	\$ 20.00	"Little Rock Police Department" for "A29531"

In addition, on March 21, 1986, H. H. BROOKINS signed a check for \$7,412.89, payable to [REDACTED] with the notation "wedding," noting BROOKINS was married in March, 1986.

The complaint alleges that several of the checks utilized by BROOKINS were transported to California and deposited or negotiated at WILSHIRE STATE BANK, Los Angeles, California, and that SHORTER COLLEGE receives funds from state and Federal grants, as well as from other sources.

On October 23, 1990, a Motion to Dismiss was filed by [REDACTED] on behalf of the defendant, H. H. BROOKINS, stating that the plaintiff had no standing in the matter.

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b7C

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 11/13/90

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

X  
B

(INITIALS)

Re my memo, 10/3/90.

On November 6, 1990, file number LRC 90-670, United States District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, entitled "G. EDWARD WEST vs. H. H. BROOKINS," was reviewed with results set forth on insert form. The case was filed September 20, 1990.

On November 13, 1990, contact with plaintiff's attorney, [REDACTED] Fort Smith, Arkansas, determined that [REDACTED] had no additional information and was awaiting a ruling by the U. S. District Court regarding his standing in this matter, based upon a motion filed on behalf of BROOKINS' attorney alleging [REDACTED] had no authority to file suit on behalf of G. EDWARD WEST or the AME Church.

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b7C

## LEADS:

### LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

#### AT LITTLE ROCK AND FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] supra, and keep apprised of ongoing filings in U. S. District Court, Little Rock.

Will contact Assistant United States Attorney, Little Rock, re prosecutive opinion.

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RWB/sst  
(2) sst

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[REDACTED] B

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P)

Date 1/16/91

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

Re my memo, 11/13/90.

On January 14, 1991, an update review was conducted on file LRC 90-670, U. S. District Court (USDC) Clerk, Eastern District of Arkansas (EDA), Little Rock, Arkansas. Subsequent to the last review on November 6, 1990, the following actions were filed:

On November 7, 1990, a response to Motion to Dismiss was filed by Plaintiff Attorney [REDACTED] along with plaintiff's Brief in Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss. (INITIALS)

On November 9, 1990, a notice was issued for a non-jury trial before USDC Judge HENRY WOODS, EDA, on April 8, 1991.

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On November 20, 1990, [REDACTED] attorney for the defendant, filed a Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss.

On January 15, 1991, [REDACTED] Attorney, Fort Smith, Arkansas, advised there were no pertinent developments in this matter other than those filed with the aforementioned courts.

## LEADS:

### LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

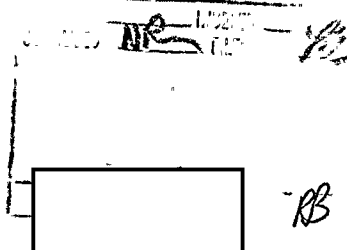
### LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will follow this matter through USDC system and report accordingly.

RWB/evk  
(2)

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# LR housing audit finds lax inventory plans

The major finding in a Little Rock audit of the city Housing Authority was that the agency failed to follow its own inventory control plans.

Joseph R. "Bob" Mason, the new Housing Authority director, released the audit Friday, saying that it was "not a scathing type report," nor did it "point fingers."

"It found administrative deficiencies," Mason said.

"A system's in place that can work," he said. "It had just gotten loose."

Mason, who comes to Little Rock from a similar job in Port Arthur, Texas, said the audit listed "mistakes made and poor judgment" of the past administration and would let him begin with a clean slate.

He inherited the job from Calvin Brown, who resigned in October after controversy created by a critical report by the federal Housing and Urban Development Department city management practices and low occupancy rates at three of the city's housing projects for families with children. The authority's five-member board requested the audit.

Most problems, Mason said, had been re-

solved by Lee Jones, the interim director, or would be cured once a permanent maintenance director is hired to oversee work in five family housing developments and three high-rise apartment buildings for the elderly and handicapped.

The audit, by city Finance Director John Pryor's staff, covered cash flow, purchasing and inventory procedures.

Auditors found that "the existing control structure ... satisfactory." But it added that in "some areas, prescribed procedures were not followed [or] questioned practices were not specifically covered by a guideline."

In one case, the audit revealed, "a 3-year contract extended for three years [at] \$10,000 a year. Rationale ... was that the vendor originally was 20 percent below the next lowest bidder

[and] formal bidding would probably have increased the cost over the amount settled on for the extension."

"This form of negotiation," auditors said, "produces questionable results."

Friday's audit said a modernization program ran into problems when change orders were needed on renovation contracts and no money was available.

"Finite funding," it said, and "the unexpectedly large number of change orders ... produced a situation that caused the former director [Brown] to begin using questionable techniques ... supplementing the 'mod' project with labor and materials from general funds."

The audit also found inventory methods "in need of considerable improvement."

The authority board since Brown's departure has written off \$5,000 in equipment, possibly stolen during break-ins.

The audit urged written procedures to govern cash receipts and recommended that a log be kept of employees who were given warehouse keys.

Mason said he welcomed the audit, which would free him to take on the vandalism and drug abuse problems at housing projects.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 1/5/91  
Edition: AM

Title:

Character: 147A-LR-32808  
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Classification: LR  
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JAN 23 1991

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, ArkansasDate: 1/9/91  
Edition: AM

Title:

Character: 87D-LR-32575  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: LR

Indexing:

  
(INITIALS)

# 7 from AME Church, Shorter support Belin

## Gazette Staff

A resolution signed by seven Little Rock area officials of the AME Church or Shorter College defending Arkansas-Oklahoma AME Bishop Henry Allen Belin Jr. will be presented tonight to the church's Bishop's Council in Washington, D.C.

Lawsuits by some AME Church members have accused Belin and his predecessor, Bishop H.H. Brookins, of siphoning nearly \$1 million intended for Shorter and the church for their own use.

Belin was found in contempt of court by a Fort Smith judge, sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$1,000 for collecting church offerings after the judge forbade him to do so.

The resolution maintaining that Belin didn't break church rules was signed by Dr. Katherine Mitchell, Shorter College president; Rufus King Young Sr., treasurer of the Shorter Trustee Board; the Rev. Ulman Tyler, presiding elder of the Little Rock AME District; Clarence Vernon Boyd Sr., pastor of Bethel AME Church in North Little Rock; M. Smith, a Shorter trustee; the Rev. Wade Deaton Sr., pastor of Bailey Chapel AME Church; and the Rev Clarence Guy, pastor of Holly Grove AME Church in North Little Rock.

"Bishop Belin has not stolen one red copper cent of money raised for Shorter College or for any other cause in the 12th Episcopal District," states the resolution.

It also disputes the jurisdiction of civil courts in church matters and said the attacks on Belin and Brookins were "in concert with what we believe [to be] an underground movement with political overtones to discredit black leadership in our country."

Young said Tuesday that he would take the resolution to the conference in an effort to keep Belin as the district bishop.

"They want black leadership to their liking," Young said.

87D-LR-32575-13

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JAN 23 1991	
FBI - LR	

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# AME bishop gets \$1,000 fine, 30 days

FORT SMITH — AME Bishop Henry Belin, who was ordered Tuesday to spend 30 days in jail for defying a court order when he accepted church offerings, has 40 days to appeal his case.

Belin, the Arkansas-Oklahoma District prelate for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, also was fined \$1,000 by Chancellor Don Langston of Fort Smith for the contempt of court conviction, which resulted from his violation of a June 27 restraining order that prohibited him for seeking money not authorized by church laws.

the idea that they were," said Karr. "I'm not saying everybody in the church is above the law, but evidence here shows there are some who feel that way."

West and Hampton alleged Tuesday that Belin raised about \$40,000 at four annual conferences after the June 27 restraining order was in place.

Karr said there is some question on whether the money was raised for legitimate church purposes. If monies were wrongfully diverted, the reverends are asking that Belin be held accountable.

Under AME laws, a national general budget fund is fixed

Belin and his Little Rock attorney, Christopher Mercer, did not return phone calls Wednesday.

"Wrong is wrong whether it is committed in the street or in a church, whether you are wearing a color or a mask," said Charles Karr, attorney for the Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith. West could not be reached for comment.

West and the Rev. R.J. Hampton of Hot Springs in March sought a court order accounting for the amount of money Belin raised. The result was the June 27 restraining order.

"They (ministers) are not above the law if they ever had

every four years at meetings of the general conference, said Karr. The budget is then allocated to the different geographical districts and each district is responsible for raising a portion of the general budget, he said.

The AME's highest judiciary body, the Judicial Council, held Dec. 13, 1989, that church laws prohibit its reverends from raising money not provided for in the general budget, said Karr. However, Belin refused to heed the declaratory decision and continued to hold fund-raising events such as a March banquet to benefit Shorter College in North Little Rock.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 7B

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 1/13/91  
Edition: AM

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Character: 87D-LR-32575  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office: LR

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FBI - LITTLE ROCK		



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 1B  
 Arkansas Gazette  
 Little Rock, Arkansas  
 Date: 1/13/91  
 Edition: AM

Title:

Character: 87D-LR-32575  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: LR

Indexing:

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## Church denies support for local bishop

By Valerie Smith  
 Gazette Staff

Local and national representatives of the African Methodist Episcopal Church said Saturday that a Little Rock pastor provided false information about the church's support for the embattled local bishop.

"He just lied," the Rev. R. J. Hampton of Little Rock said about statements made by Rev. Rickey Hicks, pastor of Connor Chapel AME Church in Little Rock.

The statements appeared in the *Arkansas Gazette* on Friday. They dealt with the Rev. Henry Allen Belin Jr., the bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Caribbean districts.

Hicks said that the Council of Bishops of the AME church unanimously approved a resolution supporting Belin, the beleaguered bishop who, along with his

predecessor Bishop H. H. Brookins, has been accused of siphoning nearly \$1 million intended for Shorter College for their own use.

Belin was found in contempt of court by a Fort Smith judge, sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$1,000 for collecting church offerings after the judge forbade him to do so.

Hicks told the *Gazette* that the resolution, signed by seven Little Rock area officials of the AME Church, was presented to the Council of Bishops Wednesday night and that the council "voted to stand behind Bishop Belin in this ordeal."

But a senior bishop from New York and the council's acting secretary from Tennessee both said Hicks'

87D-LR-32575-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

statements were "absolutely not true."

"To my knowledge, there was no resolution presented to the council. No action was taken with regard to Bishop Belin pro or con," said Senior Bishop D. Ward Nichols, of Huntington, N.Y.

Nichols, a retired bishop on the council, said he participated in both days of the meeting in Washington. He said the meeting was closed to the public, and that Hicks and Hampton did not attend.

"I was in the council when they opened up and I was there when they closed," Nichols said in a

telephone interview Saturday. "I'm not saying the Belin matter wasn't discussed. I'm saying no action was taken."

Hicks could not be reached for comment Saturday. When a reporter called his residence, a woman who said she was his wife was combative. The woman took a telephone number, but Hicks never returned the call.

Nichols said the council discussed Belin, and that a three-member committee was appointed to study the situation in Arkansas. He referred to Belin as "a friend of mine and I like him very much." He said he believed the false information was the result of an honest mistake.

"I think [Hicks] just might have misinterpreted it — that something happened on the outside [of

the meeting] and they wished it would have happened on the inside," Nichols said.

The Right Rev. Vernon Byrd, acting secretary of the Council of Bishops, confirmed Nichols' assessment of the meeting. Byrd, of Nashville, Tenn., said no vote was taken and no resolution was presented to the council Wednesday or Thursday.

He said Belin's case was discussed at an afternoon session, but no official vote was taken.

Hampton said he feared there was an attempt to mislead the public.

"Nobody is proud of what is happening in our church," said Hampton, who is one of the plaintiffs in a series of lawsuits against Belin. "But to falsify information ... then that is very wrong."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Bishop accused in theft challenges jail term possibility

By Lisa Pevtzow  
Gazette Staff

AME Bishop Henry Belin, who stands accused of stealing church money, is challenging the right of a judge to send him to jail for collecting a church offering of \$6,000.

"There's a string of decisions from here to the Saudi Arabia desert saying that civil court can't regulate church decisions," said Belin's attorney, Christopher Mercer. "We are thoroughly disillusioned by the court's decision. We think it's patently wrong on its face."

Belin denied any wrong-doing in a telephone conversation with Mercer after hearing of Tuesday's ruling and said he was disturbed

about going to jail, his attorney said.

"Placing a high clergyman in jail for anything does not do any good for his reputation," Mercer said. "I hope this is not the end of the world. I'm trying to get over the shock of the court doing what it did."

Belin did not appear in court Tuesday and has not been available for comment since. Mercer said he did not know Belin's whereabouts.

Belin was found in contempt of court and sentenced to the 30-day jail term and a \$1,000 fine by Chancery Judge Don Langston of

Fort Smith, who determined that Belin asked for and received money in violation of church law, thereby violating a temporary restraining order.

Witnesses told Langston that Belin collected offerings totaling more than \$6,000 at an annual church conference in North Little Rock.

Mercer and Langston disagree over whether that violates Langston's original order.

"I said, 'Don't collect, receive or disburse any money during the period of the injunction,'" said Langston on Thursday. "He has to collect it in accordance with church law, account for it and send it to the right entities."

Langston issued the order in June on the heels of a series of state and federal lawsuits by two Shorter College trustees that contended that Belin and his predecessor, Bishop H. H. Brookins, diverted close to \$1 million of church money for their personal use.

If Belin files a petition within 30 days of the contempt order, Langston will hold a hearing to let Belin to prove that he didn't take the money, the judge said.

Belin must show the judge documentation giving details of who collected the money, how much was collected and where it was distributed, Langston said.

"He can't come up here and say 'I didn't collect it,'" Langston said. "I won't buy that."

Mercer objected to Langston's explanation of his ruling, saying that the judge merely prevented Belin from breaking church law and didn't attach specific conditions.

"All [Belin] was doing was conducting regular church business," Mercer said. "And they interpret this to the court that accepting offerings is in violation of church law."

The church's finance committee allocated the offerings to offset expenses of the meeting, said Mercer, who expressed doubt that his client ever personally handled the money.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 1B

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 1/14/91

Edition: AM

Title:

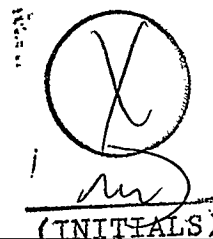
Character: 87D-LR-32575

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LR

Indexing:

  
(INITIALS)

"There's too much surveillance for any one person to step out the back door with a bag of money," Mercer said.

Belin is the African Methodist Episcopal prelate for the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Caribbean islands districts.

87D-LR-32575-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

15

# Case of embezzlement against bishop dropped

By Toya Hill  
Gazette Staff

The case against African Methodist Episcopal Bishop H. H. Brookins alleging he diverted funds from Shorter College has been dismissed.

The suit, one of several that have been filed throughout the state involving the church, was the only one that named Brookins, both Brookins and his attorney, Allan Dishongh, said Saturday.

It was dismissed without prejudice Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Little Rock by Judge Henry Woods, saying the Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith has no standing to bring the suit on behalf of Shorter College.

"I'm going to pray for Rev. West and his family because he has made so many mistakes," Brookins said Saturday from his home in Virginia. "The thing was all personal. The brother got confused.

"He took out a vendetta," Brookins said.

West said Saturday evening he was disappointed, but the suit would be refiled.

"The judge's dismissal is not a dismissal out of hand. He simply said Shorter College needs to be a party to the suit," West said.

"That's easy for us to do," he said, adding that the amended suit is already being prepared.

West's attorney, Charles Karr of Fort Smith, said the allegations were clearly no vendetta.

"I would suggest that anyone who is interested in that sort of thing would look at the facts alleged in the lawsuit," Karr said. "I think it's quite obvious from looking at the complaint ... that this is not a personal vendetta."

Among other things, the original suit, which was filed last summer, contended Brookins diverted about \$380,000 from Shorter College into a secret bank account. It said Brookins, who was chairman of the college board at the time, wrote checks on the account at

*"I'm going to pray for Rev. West and his family because he has made so many mistakes. The thing was all personal. The brother got confused."*

—H.H. Brookins,  
African Methodist Episcopal bishop

First Commercial Bank in Little Rock totaling \$261,269 from 1986 to 1988.

Brookins was also presiding bishop of the 12th Episcopal District, composed of Arkansas and Oklahoma, from 1984 to 1988. He is now bishop of the church's 2nd Episcopal District in Washington, D.C.

Other suits by West and Shorter board member Rev. R.J. Hampton of Little Rock, presiding elder in the Hot Springs AME church, have been filed against present 12th Episcopal District Bishop H.A. Belin Jr.

"I think that the complaint speaks for itself about the facts that were raised by Rev. West," Karr said. And, "It was dismissed without prejudice," which means it's not a final judgment of that issue, he said.

"That [the dismissal] does not necessarily mean a final decision on all issues in that lawsuit," Karr said. "It simply dismissed it for a lack of standing. It did not decide anything."

Karr said he and West are also looking at other legal options.

But Brookins said nothing done by West will disrupt his life.

"People have known my ministry and my work 35 years," he said. "I've built some of the major churches of this nation. Truth needs no explanation."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 2/24/91

Edition: AM

Title:

Character: 87D-LR-32575

or  
Classification: LR  
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

*[Handwritten signature]*

87D-LR-32575-17

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
FEB 25 1991	
<i>[initials]</i>	

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 3/5/91

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

Remymemo, 1/16/91.

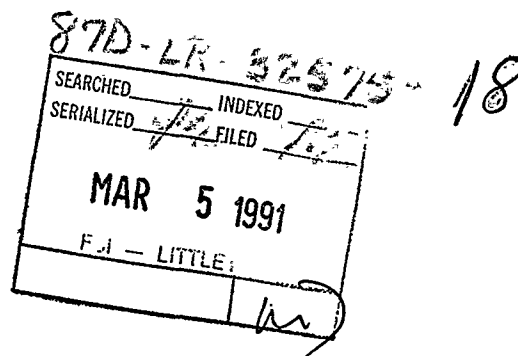
On 2/14/91, the facts of captioned matter, as developed to date, were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [REDACTED] Eastern District of Arkansas (EDA), Little Rock, Arkansas, at which time AUSA [REDACTED] advised his office would entertain prosecution under Title 18, United States Code, Section 2314, if investigation substantiated that captioned subject responsible for the transferring and/or transporting of stolen funds in excess of \$5,000 from Arkansas to California.

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He advised this matter would be assigned to AUSA [REDACTED] and requested that AUSA [REDACTED] be apprised of the particulars in this matter.

On 2/21/91, AUSA [REDACTED] was advised of the facts of this case, as known to date, at which time he requested investigation be conducted to identify individual(s) who could testify as to the fact that the funds allegedly transferred to California by BROOKINS were in fact Shorter College/AME funds prior to expending extensive manpower on other aspects of this investigation.

*RWB/cds*  
*(2) cds*



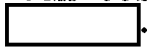
87D-LR-32575

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will attempt to identify and interview individuals who  
can testify regarding ownership of funds as requested by AUSA



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b7c

Will follow and report civil proceedings set in United  
States District Court, EDA, Little Rock, Arkansas, on 4/8/91.

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 4/17/91

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP,  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

Remymemo, 3/5/91.

Attempts to contact [REDACTED] Attorney, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, telephone [REDACTED] met with negative results prior to 4/2/91.

On 4/2/91, [REDACTED] supra, advised that at this time he was undecided as to whether he would refile the civil suit against BROOKINS in United States District Court (USDC).

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[REDACTED] advised that he had had some difficulty in determining the source, purpose, and ownership of the monies in question. He further advised that [REDACTED] would possibly have specific information regarding the conversion and disposition of AME funds by BROOKINS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at SHORTER COLLEGE, has been reluctant to furnish information to him regarding activities of BROOKINS.

## LEADS:

### LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

#### AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will locate and interview [REDACTED] re knowledge this matter.

b6  
b7C

Will consider obtaining pertinent bank records re Account Number 0-69179-8, FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK, Little Rock, entitled "H. H. BROOKINS - SHORTER COLLEGE."

Will, thereafter, consider the obtainment of California financial records re accounts established by BROOKINS.

RWB/cds  
(2) cds

1\*

7D-LR-32575-19

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/3/91

[redacted] was interviewed at the EOA SENIOR HOUSE, 2500 Gaines Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, pursuant to a previous arrangement. After being advised of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the inquiry, [redacted] furnished the following information:

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He currently resides at [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] This account was titled, "H. H. BROOKINS, SHORTER COLLEGE account, 604 Locust, North Little Rock, Arkansas, and bore account number 0-69179-8. Neither he nor the Board were familiar with the account, and it was subsequently determined that the account had been established in March, 1986, by Mr. BROOKINS, who was then Bishop of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH. The AME Bishop is responsible for the appointing of certain positions, including the presidency, of SHORTER COLLEGE, which is AME affiliated. Prior to that time, the account had been handled by Bishop BROOKINS' [redacted]

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[redacted] which caused [redacted] to discover the account. [redacted] reiterated that, although the account had been in existence for approximately two years prior to discovery, it was unknown to the board that the account existed.

He does not know the specific whereabouts of [redacted] at this time, but believes he can be contacted through [redacted] at ALAN UNIVERSITY, Columbia, South Carolina.

After the discovery of the account, it was discussed with the Board of Directors on August 9, 1988. [redacted] Bishop BROOKINS, was not desirous of [redacted]

Investigation on 5/30/91 at Little Rock, Arkansas File # 87D-LR-32575-20

by SA [redacted] /RWB/sst Date dictated 6/3/91

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

(copy)

INDEXED	FILED
JUN 6 1991	
[initials]	



87D-LR-32575

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

, On 5/30/91, Page 2

b6  
b7C

pursuing the matter and, therefore, it essentially became a dead issue. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that one of the reasons he believes the matter was not pursued by the board is due to the fact the board is appointed by the Bishop and the Bishop was not desirous in pursuing the matter.

He has no specific information as to the source of the funds deposited into the aforementioned account, which totaled approximately \$380,000.00 over the pertinent time period, but believes it was receipts from solicitations on behalf of SHORTER COLLEGE. Some of the funds could have also come from honorary degree contributors.

[REDACTED] advised that, to his knowledge, there was no reason for the account and, even though the address was listed as 604 Locust, which is the SHORTER COLLEGE address, he believes the statements were directed to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bishop BROOKINS' [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is still employed at SHORTER COLLEGE  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] advised that others who could possibly furnish information in this matter would be [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] further advised that this matter had been referred to [REDACTED] and that Investigators [REDACTED] had looked into the matter. He does not know the current status of their investigation.

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[REDACTED] made available a list of SHORTER COLLEGE board members, along with available bank records for account number 0-69179-8, for the period March, 1986, through December, 1988.

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b7C

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 6/3/91

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

Re my memo, 4/17/91.

Efforts to contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] met with  
negative results prior to May 30, 1991. On May 30, 1991, [REDACTED]  
was interviewed with the results set forth on FD-302.

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Also, as set forth in the aforementioned FD-302,  
[REDACTED] made available copies of monthly bank statements for the  
period March, 1986, through December, 1988, for account number  
0-69179-8, FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
entitled, "H. H. BROOKINS - SHORTER COLLEGE Account, 604 Locust,  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114." [REDACTED] also made available  
copies of several checks drawn against that account. However, no  
deposit information was available.

## LEADS:

### LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

#### AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will continue review of records made available by  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Will contact [REDACTED]  
re possible information this matter.

Will, thereafter, determine need for acquiring  
additional FIRST COMMERCIAL records regarding account number  
0-69179-8, and accounts utilized by BROOKINS in California.

87D-LR-32575-21

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 03 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

RWB/sst  
(2) sst

87D-LR-32575

Will continue efforts to determine source of funds deposited to FIRST COMMERCIAL account, along with any legitimate/authorized use by BROOKINS.

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

10825 Financial Centre Pkwy., #200  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
June 6, 1991

b6  
b7C


Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed copies of bank records previously  
made available to Special Agent [redacted] of this office  
on May 30, 1991.

These records have been copied for use by this office.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

  
Don K. Pettus  
Special Agent in Charge  
FBI, State of Arkansas

Enclosures

1 - Addressee  
1 - 87D-LR-32575  
RWB/le  
(2)

87D-LR-32575-22  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized         
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

# SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY BEFORE GRAND JURY

<b>United States District Court</b>	DISTRICT Eastern District of Arkansas <span style="float: right;">9100881</span>
TO: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	SUBPOENA FOR <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 30px; display: inline-block;"></div>

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear in the United States District Court at the location, date and time specified below to testify before the Grand Jury in the above entitled case.

PLACE U. S. Attorney's Office U. S. Post Office and Courthouse Bldg. 600 West Capitol Avenue Room 331 Little Rock, AR	COURTROOM   <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>
--	--

YOU ARE ALSO COMMANDED to bring with you the following document(s) or object(s):<sup>(1)</sup>

**XX** Please see additional information on reverse

This subpoena shall remain in effect until you are granted leave to depart by the court or by an officer acting on behalf of the court.

CLERK  CARL R. BRENTIS	DATE  7-2-91
(BY) DEPUTY CLERK <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 30px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-top: 10px;"></div>	

This subpoena is issued on application of the United States of America by:

NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY

Assistant U. S. Attorney  
 P. O. Box 1229  
 Little Rock, Arkansas

87D-LR-32575-23

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>JUL 2 1991</b>	

(1) If not applicable, enter "none."

RETURN OF SERVICE<sup>(2)</sup>

RECEIVED BY SERVER	DATE 7-2-91	PLACE Little Rock, Ark
SERVED	DATE [REDACTED]	PLACE Little Rock, Ark
SERVED ON (NAME)	[REDACTED]	

b3  
b6  
b7C

SERVED BY [REDACTED]	TITLE SPECIAL AGENT - FBI
-------------------------	------------------------------

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## STATEMENT OF SERVICE FEES

TRAVEL —	SERVICES —	TOTAL —
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DECLARATION OF SERVER<sup>(3)</sup>

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Return of Service and Statement of Fees is true and correct.

Executed on [REDACTED]

Signature of Server

Suite 200, Two Financial Centre

Address of Server

Little Rock, Ark.

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b6  
b7C

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

b6  
b7C

Assistant U. S. Attorney [REDACTED] P. O. Box 1229, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203  
prior to July 15, 1991.

DISCLOSURE OF THIS SUBPOENA MAY RESULT IN AN INTERFERENCE WITH OUR INVESTIGATION.  
ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT DISCLOSE THE EXISTENCE OR SUBSTANCE OF  
THIS SUBPOENA [REDACTED]

b3

PLEASE NOTIFY US IN ADVANCE OF ANY ACTIONS WHICH YOU MIGHT CONTEMPLATE WHICH ARE IN  
CONFLICT WITH THIS REQUEST OR TO RESOLVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

(2) As to who may serve a subpoena and the manner of its service see Rule 17(d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 45(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(3) "Fees and mileage need not be tendered to the witness upon service of a subpoena issued on behalf of the United States or an officer or agency thereof (Rule 45(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; Rule 17(d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure) or on behalf of certain indigent parties and criminal defendants who are unable to pay such costs (28 U.S.C. 1825, Rule 17(b) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)."



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

*Eastern District of Arkansas*

Post Office Box 1229

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

August 8, 1991

[redacted]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
P. O. Box 21470  
Little Rock, AR 72221-1470

b6  
b7C

RE: Disclosure of Grand Jury Material

Dear [redacted]:

Enclosed is the Grand Jury material described on the attached subpoena(s).

Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that this material should remain secret and should not be disclosed to others. The rule further provides that such material shall not be used for any purposes other than in assisting me, as Assistant United States Attorney, in my duty to enforce federal criminal laws.

If these are financial records, pursuant to the Right to Financial Privacy Act, this office must be notified of the final disposition of these records.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. BANKS  
United States Attorney



Assistant U.S. Attorney

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PH/slp



87D-LR-32575-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 09 1991	

b3

# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (66F-LR-C33107)

Date 8-14-91

From : SA [redacted] (P)

b6  
b7C

Subject: REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANT/  
FINANCIAL ANALYST (F/A) ASSISTANCE

Re memo of SSA [redacted] dated 3/22/91.

The following is a succinct summary of the case  
entitled:

TITLE: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, et al ; ITSP; FBW  
LR 87D-LR-32575

SUMMARY: Diversion of school & church funds to  
personal use over 3 1/2 yr period. Total TRANSACTIONS  
Appx \$ 480,000.00.

Explain what is requested of F/A:

Schedule source and disposition of funds.

DEADLINE, IF ANY: None

Approximate number of F/A working days: 3

Supervisor [redacted] approval - Yes/No.

b6  
b7C

- (4) - Little Rock  
(1 - 66F-LR-C33107)  
(3) - Case File - 87D-LR-32575

(4) RWB

Copies sent to  
FA [redacted]  
SA [redacted]  
8/14/91

assigned  
lead to  
[redacted]

87D-LR-32575-26

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 14 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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b7C



# Memorandum



To : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (87D-LR-32575) (P) Date 9/27/91

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Subject: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS, aka  
H. H. Brookins - BISHOP;  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH;  
ITSP; FBW  
OO: LITTLE ROCK

Remymemo 8/2/91 and 8/14/91.

Pursuant to referenced memo of 8/14/91, FA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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On 9/18/91, after review [REDACTED]  
this matter was discussed with Assistant United States  
Attorney (AUSA) [REDACTED] Eastern District of Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

AUSA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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b7C

Thereafter, consideration will be given to interviewing  
board members of Shorter College as well as gaining access to  
information developed by [REDACTED],  
Los Angeles, California.

b7E

RB RWB/cds  
(2) cds

87D-LR-32575 27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 27 1991	
FBI - [REDACTED]	

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87D-LR-32575

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will review [REDACTED] as prepared by FA  
[REDACTED] for interview.

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Will, thereafter, conduct selected interviews.

Will maintain contact with AUSA [REDACTED]

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b7C

87D-LR-32575-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 18 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	
	<i>sd</i>



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

*Eastern District of Arkansas*

Post Office Box 1229

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

November 14, 1991

[Redacted]  
Chief of Major Frauds  
United States Attorney's Office  
1100 U. S. Courthouse  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: H. H. Brookins

Dear [Redacted]:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please call me if you have a question. My FTS number is [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. BANKS  
United States Attorney

[Redacted]

By [Redacted]  
Assistant U. S. Attorney

[Redacted]

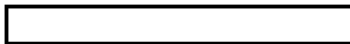
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CC:



✓  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
P. O. Box 21470  
Little Rock, AR 72221

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87D-LR-32575-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 27 1991	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Vote urges Shorter oust 2 as trustees Pair's suits charged money misdirected

BY JAKE SANDLIN  
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

The executive committee of Shorter College's board of trustees recommended Saturday expelling the two trustees who filed lawsuits alleging misappropriation of money raised for the college.

Recommended for expulsion are the Revs. R.J. Hampton and G. Edward West, both of Hot Springs.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by nine members of the 11-member executive committee in a Saturday afternoon meeting at Shorter. The two-year college in North Little Rock is operated by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the next meeting of the full board in January, Shorter College President Katherine Mitchell said.

Board Treasurer Rufus K. Young read the committee's resolution at a news conference at the college after the meeting. The statement cited the "adverse and false publicity" resulting from the suits, which damaged Shorter's fund-raising.

Hampton and West, formerly of Fort Smith, sought a federal court order in Fort Smith in March 1990 to account for money raised by Bishop Henry Allen Belin Jr. of the AME Church for legitimate church purposes. In June 1990, the two men also filed a federal lawsuit alleging that Belin and his predecessor, Bishop H.H. Brookins, diverted about \$380,000 from church and

Shorter College accounts for personal use.

The case against Brookins was dismissed in February by Judge Henry Woods, saying there was no standing to bring the suit on behalf of Shorter College.

Hampton, a presiding elder in the Hot Springs AME Church, also had filed suit in Garland County Chancery Court in Hot Springs alleging that Belin tried to remove him from the church.

Belin was held in contempt of court by Chancellor Don Langston of Fort Smith on Dec. 11, 1990, after Belin accepted a \$6,000 offering in violation of a court order restraining him from further fund-raising campaigns until the federal lawsuit was resolved.

Belin was ordered to spend 30 days in jail and fined \$1,000. Belin was to turn himself in to Sebastian County Detention Center, but didn't.

"We know that this \$6,000 was not for Shorter College, that it was for Episcopal District Administration and was used for that purpose," Young said, reading from the resolution.

Young said Belin had raised and turned over to Shorter College \$131,724.88 in the 1988-89 school year, \$149,119.82 in 1989-90 and \$102,668.83 in 1990-91. The 1991-92 fund-raising figures were unavailable.

"These facts indicate that the false allegations that have been made against (Belin) with reference to his diverting funds intended for Shorter College to his personal use have adversely (affected) the raising of funds for Shorter College to the tune of some \$47,000 per year," Young said, again reading from the resolution.

In answering reporters' questions, Young said that there were never any missing funds raised for Shorter College by Belin.

"There's never been a question (of missing funds) with any member here," Young said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 1B,  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 12/22/91

Edition: Daily

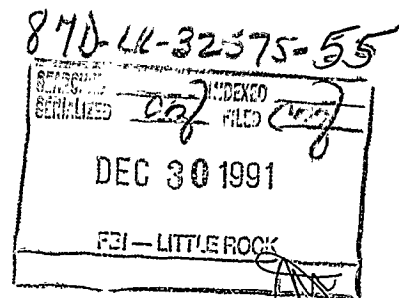
Title: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS

Character: ITSP; FBW

or  
Classification: 87D-LR-32575

Submitting Office: LR

Indexing:





Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Larry Trussell

**BOARD MEETS MEDIA** — Rufus King Young, treasurer of the Shorter College board of trustees, speaks

Saturday at a news conference about recent problems at the North Little Rock college. Other trustees listen.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Go to jail or face fine, A.M.E. bishop warned

BY JULIEANNE MILLER

Democrat-Gazette Fort Smith Bureau

**FORT SMITH - A.M.E.** Bishop Henry Allen Belin Jr. has been given until Dec. 31 to start serving a jail sentence.

Belin was found in contempt of court a year ago for accepting church donations in violation of a court order, but he didn't show up as ordered to serve a 30-day sentence.

An order filed Monday in Sebastian County Circuit Court by Chancellor John Van Winkle says Belin will be fined \$100 a day if he fails to show at the Sebastian County Detention Center before 10 a.m. Dec. 31.

Belin, a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, failed in early December to begin serving the 30-day jail term.

Chancellor Don Langston of Fort Smith held him in contempt of court Dec. 11, 1990, in a lawsuit brought by the Rev. R.J. Hampton of Hot Springs and the Rev. G. Edward West of Fort Smith. Belin had accepted a \$6,000 offering in violation of a court order restraining him from further fund-raising until a federal lawsuit against him was settled.

That lawsuit, dismissed in February by U.S. District Judge Henry Woods, alleged that Belin and his predecessor, Bishop H.H. Brookins, diverted about \$380,000 from church and Shorter College business accounts for personal

use.

Shorter College is a two-year college in North Little Rock. It is affiliated with the A.M.E. Church.

West said Monday that actions taken Saturday by the college's board of trustees were a "smear campaign" by some "envious" members of the board's executive committee.

The committee recommended Saturday that West and Hampton be removed from the board of trustees. That recommendation is to be forwarded to the full board in January.

West contends he is not a trustee of Shorter College, as determined in another lawsuit brought a year ago before Chancellor John Robbins of Hot Springs.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 1B,  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Date: 12/25/91

Edition: Daily

Title: HENRY HARTFORD BROOKINS,  
AME CHURCH

Character: ITSP; FBW  
or

Classification: 87D-LR-32575

Submitting Office: LR

Indexing:

87D-LR-32575-56

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 14 1992	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 87D-LR-32575

Suite 200 - Two Financial Centre  
 10825 Financial Centre Parkway  
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
 January 21, 1992

b6  
 b7C  
 b7E

Dear Special Agent 

The attached material obtained from you in connection with an investigative activity of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is of no further value to this agency or the Department of Justice. The FBI is prohibited from destroying this material; therefore, it is being returned to you for whatever disposition you deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Don K. Pettus  
 Special Agent in Charge

Encl. (See 2-Page Attachment)

- 1 - Addressee  
 ② - Little Rock (87D-LR-32575) (C)  
 DFR/evk  
 (3) *evk*

*QJW*

Registry Number 3 (ok) *RR# 653809132*  
 Date Evidence Shipped 1/29/92 *RR# 653809133*  
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